

The George-Anne

May 2, 2019

Georgia Southern University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/george-anne>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "The George-Anne" (2019). *The George-Anne*. 3268.
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/george-anne/3268>

This newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Media at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in The George-Anne by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.

MILITARY HISTORY

Georgia Southern student unveils Bulloch County military history as part of a project.

Page 5



thegeorgeanne

MATT WISE

How former Eagles football player uses his faith on and off the field.

Page 9

EAGLES BOUND FOR NFL

Five Georgia Southern students hope to begin NFL careers.

Page 14

thegeorgeanne.com

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 93, ISSUE 29

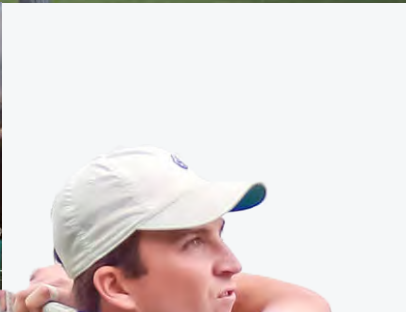


MATTHEW ENFINGER/staff



JAREN STEPHENS/staff

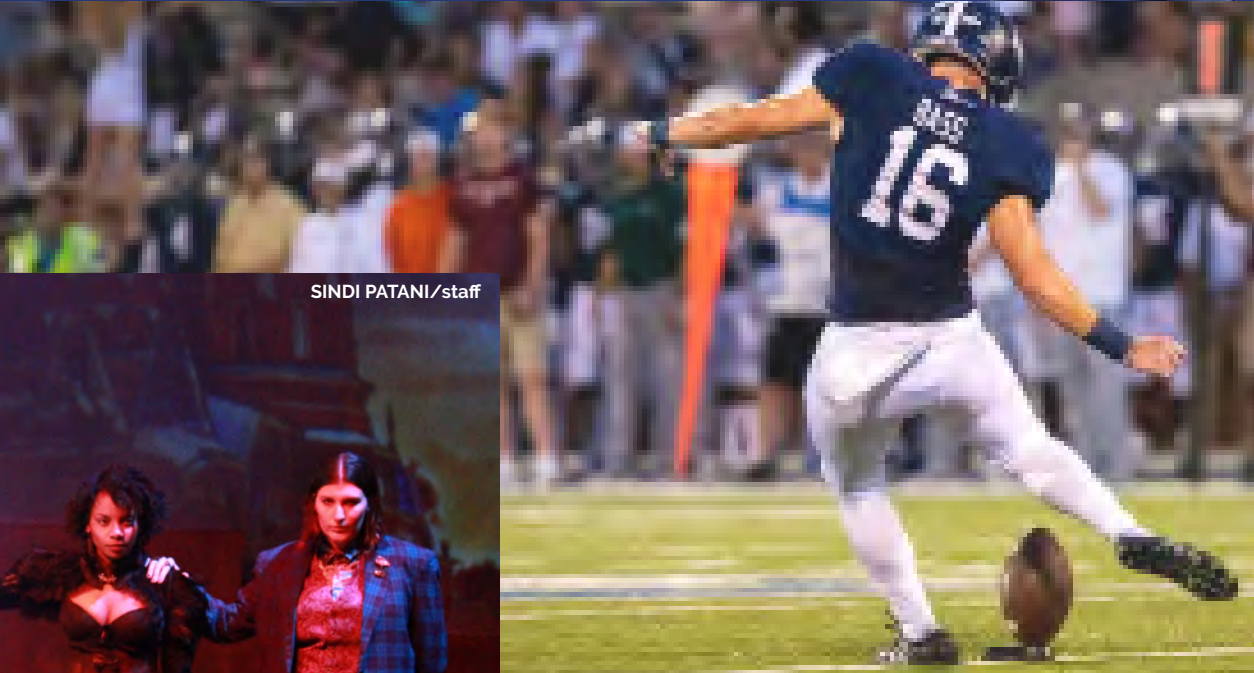
JAREN STEPHENS/staff



A YEAR IN REVIEW

A review of Georgia Southern's 2018-2019 school year.

Page 6-7



SINDI PATANI/staff

LUNSFORD READY TO TAKE ON FALL SEASON

GEORGIA SOUTHERN LOOKS TO IMPROVE FROM LAST YEAR'S SUCCESS.

PAGE 13



JAREN STEPHENS/staff

ROSEMARY KRAMER

RIFLE TEAM MEMBER TO COMPETE ON WORLD STAGE

PAGE 13



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAITLYN COLE

EVENTS

AROUND CAMPUS

| | |
|----------|---|
| MAY 3 | ALL FIRED UP ART SALE The All Fired Up Exhibition & Sale features artwork and handcrafted items from local artists, Averitt Center staff and students, the Statesboro Regional Art Association, and the students of the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art. Friday, May 3 at 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Roxie Remley Center for Fine Arts |
| MAY 3 | UPB MOVIE: WHAT MEN WANT Join the University Programming Board for our monthly Friday movie series. This event is free and open to the public Friday, May 3 at 7 p.m Russell Union Theatre |
| MAY 4 | GIRLS ON THE RUN This 5K is a celebration run for all the girls in our program that community runners are welcome to register for. Saturday, May 4 at 9 a.m. Resort Dr. Savannah, GA 31421 |
| MAY 6 | UPB PRESENTS: NO STRESS ZONE Looking for a way to destress before finals? Enter our No Stress Zone where we have aqua massage beds, paraffin wax, an oxygen bar and light snacks to revitalize your day. Monday, May 6 at 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Russell Union Ballroom |

#PETSBORO



Barry
(short for Barold)
Owner:
Mak Trujilio
sophomore
fashion design
major



Want you and your pet to be featured next time?
Post your photo on Twitter with the name of your pet and a little bit about you (name, year, and major).
Make sure you include #petsboro and tag @GA_Visuals!

OUR HOUSE

We asked Georgia Southern students...

"How are you handling the stress of preparing for finals week?"

CAIMAN SMITH



"Staying organized."

ANNA ELLIOT



"Go to the gym."

TREVOR SENTER



"Take good notes and have a good study plan."

ELIJAH ARVIE



"A good playlist and spending time with friends."



#SeenAtSouthern

Our photographers went out on campus and snapped some photos depicting life at Georgia Southern. Come back every week or follow our Twitter, @GA_Visuals, to see if you have been spotted!



REBECCA HOOPER/staff
Paris Glasper, psychology



REBECCA HOOPER/staff
Claudia Hopper, international studies; Taylor Murray, international studies; Kennedy Miller, biology

Reflector Launch

Last Thursday, the George-Anne Reflector has its spring semester launch. Students participated in many provided activities like painting canvases, cornhole, and browsing vendor tables. These students showed off their art skills with painting.



Noelle Walker and



Ashton Christianson

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

The George-Anne is the official student newspaper of Georgia Southern University, operated by GSU students using facilities provided by the university. The newspaper is the oldest continuously published newspaper in Bulloch County. The newspaper is published once weekly, on Thursdays, during most of the academic year. Any questions regarding content should be directed to the student editor email at gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu.

ADVERTISING: The newspaper accepts advertising. Inquiries may be made by calling 912.478.5418 or 912.478.0566. For questions e-mail ads1@georgiasouthern.edu.

The George-Anne receives additional support, in part, from the Student Activities Budget Committee. For more information, rate cards, or sample publications, contact the advertising manager or student media director. The advertiser is responsible for any errors in advertisements and its liability for adjustments is limited to the amount of space the error occupied in the ad. Further, the newspaper is not responsible for any damages caused due to an ad's omission from a particular edition and its responsibility solely is to reschedule the ad in the next regular edition at the regular advertising rates.

STUDENTS BEWARE: The George-Anne screens all advertisements prior to publication. The newspaper strives to accept ads for legitimate products and services only. Students are urged to exercise caution when replying to ads-- particularly those that require personal information. Students are also urged to report to the newspaper any suspicious offers which they might see in an ad.

PUBLICATION INFORMATION: The newspaper is printed by The Statesboro Herald in Statesboro, Ga.

NOTICE: Unauthorized removal of multiple copies from a distribution site constitutes theft under Georgia law, a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine and/or jail time.

CORRECTIONS: Contact the editor at gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu for corrections and errors.

STAFF LIST

Editor-in-Chief Matthew Enfinger
Coverage Managing Editor Brendan Ward
Daily Managing Editor McClain Baxley
Engagement Managing Editor Tandra Smith
News Editor Emma Smith
Assistant News Editor Kyle Clark
Sports Editor Kaitlin Sells
Assistant Sports Editor Bethany-Grace Bowers
Opinions Writer Cy Taylor

Creative Editor-in-Chief Rebecca Hooper
Creative Managing Editor Morgan Carr
George-Anne Design Editor Jayda Spencer
Photo Editor Matthew Funk
Features Designer Khayah Griffin
News Designer Kayla Hill
Sports Designer Dawson Elrod
Marketing Manager Kevin Rezac

The George-Anne welcomes letters to the editor and appropriate guest columns. All copy submitted should be 350 words or fewer, typed, and sent via email in Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx) format to letters@georgiasouthern.edu. All submissions must be signed and include phone number for verification. GSU students should include their academic major, year and hometown. The editors reserve the right to reject any submission and edit submissions for length. Opinions expressed herein are those of the Board of Opinions, or columnists themselves and DO NOT necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff, or administration of GSU, the Student Media Advisory, Student Media or the University System of Georgia.



TANDRA SMITH
Smith is a senior journalism major and double minor in multimedia communications and film and production. Smith is from Austell, Ga.

Tandra has been on The George-Anne staff since freshman year, and has held positions such as news reporter, coverage managing editor, and engagement editor.

Hey you. Yes, you: incoming freshman or rising sophomore, junior or senior. I'm sure you've heard all about Student Media, The George-Anne and other entities. Maybe you've always wanted to join. Maybe you hate our guts. Either way, I'm bidding adieu to Georgia Southern University and Student Media. Before I go, I want to leave you with some tips about how to survive working for Student Media if you or a loved one manage to find your way into the hallowed halls of the second floor of the Williams Center.

**TIP #1:
DO JOIN STUDENT MEDIA!**

I won't beat around the bush. You'll hear many people talking bad about Student Media and The George-Anne. I've gotten "What a liberal rag" to "Sorry, I'm too conservative to take your paper" and much more. Despite this, you should join anyway! Really, the comments are just a precursor to your life in the media anyway.

**TIP #2:
MAKE SURE YOU HANG AROUND OUTSIDE OF WORK**

Yeah, if you thought that you'll last long at Student Media when you leave right after your shift is over, you thought wrong. All the best moments I've had at Student Media have occurred in the late night hours and pre-dawn mornings.
Between watching Vine compilations and having milly-rock competitions as the clock strikes midnight, if you're not willing to stay long after your shift, you might as well not even stay--period.

**TIP #3:
MAKE AS MANY FRIENDS AS YOU CAN**

Though I learned a lot about being a great journalist from Student Media, my experience would've been nothing without becoming close friends with a lot of the staff, both older and younger.
To Ian and Jozsef: Thank you for insulting me constantly, making fun of my music tastes and yes, not publishing my cold weather story. I am proud to call both of you

guys my journalism mentors, even though I would never admit that while y'all were here.
To Taisha and Kiara: Thank you two for showing me that black women can survive and thrive in the media. I'm so excited to keep in touch with y'all as the years go on.
To Blakeley, my friend from day one: It seems like only yesterday we were in candidate class and wondering what the hell we were doing at a Student Media party when we didn't know anybody else there. Can't wait for you to walk across that stage during graduation.
To Matthew, my fearless Editor-in-Chief: We've come a long way from watching senseless YouTube videos in the library and me driving you around everywhere because your car is always at the stadium. I couldn't have been prouder to be your friend and work alongside you for three years.

To anybody else I've missed: I thank you. I love you.
Yes, there are only three tips, but three of the most important ones you'll need if you decide to join Student Media. It's been a hell of four years here and I don't regret it one bit.



MATTHEW ENFINGER
Enfinger is a senior writing and linguistics major from Hephzibah, Ga.

Matthew has been on The George-Anne staff since sophomore year, and has held positions such as news reporter, news editor, and The George-Anne editor-in-chief.

The editor-in-chief's desk in The George-Anne newsroom sits next to a large window on the second floor of the Williams Center.
Looking out it, one can see down the pedestrian and see the occasional student walk by perhaps rushing to class or heading home.
This past year, I've spent a lot of time behind that desk, however the view through the window itself is only part of the perfect view.
For the past three years I've seen a lot of Georgia Southern University as a reporter and editor.
I've met three Georgia Southern

presidents, two gubernatorial candidates, covered three different student led marches and have spoken to countless students. I've heard and witnessed stories that I know I will never encounter anywhere else.
I've seen students mourn over the death of friends and students triumph in taking action to have their voices heard.
I've seen how simple co-workers can change into friends and later change into family. I've seen and learned from mentors that I will forever aspire to be.

I've seen early mornings on campus when the first commuters hop on the bus at Paulson Stadium and late nights in the newsroom working on stories or laying out the weekly paper with our creative staff.
Wherever life takes me following graduation, I will always remember my time working here at The George-Anne and the wonderful view it provided me of Georgia Southern.
Thank you all again. Keep reading.



JULIA FECHTER
Fechter is a senior multimedia journalism major and Japanese minor from Statesboro, Ga.

Julia has been on the student media staff since freshman year, and has held positions such as The George-Anne features editor, G-A enterprise reporter, Reflector print editor, and Reflector culture editor.

Now that I am actually writing this, I want to thank the collegiate and community people who have influenced my life more so than I want to list my accomplishments. There are so many people I could thank, but I would like to take the time to thank several specific people and groups.
I am thankful that other students from The George-Anne Media Group coached me into the world of journalism when I was a freshman in Spring 2015. Colleagues at The George-Anne and The George-Anne Reflector, both past and present, showed me genuine community and how to balance enjoying content

creation with being committed to accuracy and precision.
I have also gained valuable knowledge from my professors and teachers, particularly Jennifer Kowalewski, Ph.D. and Scott Bryant, the photojournalism class lecturer and The Statesboro Herald photographer. Scott, you opened my eyes to the creative possibilities of photojournalism and showed me the care that journalists should have for their communities while doing their work.
Dr. K., thank you for the brutal honesty. I may not have always relished your critiques on my articles,

but I realize now that you said the things you did because you believed in me as a journalist. You encouraged me to keep trying, even when I was frustrated.
The Georgia Southern University and Statesboro communities have greatly shaped me as a person. I am so grateful to have grown up in such a unique community with both a diverse and small-town feel. I am also grateful that I could tell the stories of such a rich array of people.
As I graduate from this university, I do so with all of my experiences as a springboard to serve another community.



PHOTO COURTESY OF Google Maps

MILITARY HISTORY EXHIBIT

Georgia Southern student to debut Bulloch County military history exhibit as part of project



PHOTO COURTESY OF BREANA JAMES

Breana James, a GS public history student, led the Bulloch County's Military History and Heritage project, which features an exhibit called "Community and Conflict."

BY RACHEL ADAMS
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern University Museum will debut an exhibit on Bulloch County's military history at the Bulloch County Annex on April 30. Breana James, a GS public history student, led the Bulloch County's Military History and Heritage project, which features an exhibit called "Community and Conflict" and a website also called Bulloch County's Military Heritage. The exhibit will showcase different artifacts and history from Bulloch County veterans who gave their lives as well as

those who are still living in the community today. "Around a dozen veterans or family members of veterans participated in creating the exhibit," James said in an email. "Specifically, I interviewed eight people in Bulloch County about the war." James said she began researching for the project in April 2018 and began working on it in August 2018. "The military history of Bulloch County is a topic that countless people have researched, written about and commemorated over hundreds of years," James said. "I wanted to be familiar with as much of

that information as possible." James said that it was difficult to choose which artifacts to include in the exhibit, as there was limited space. "I would make the exhibit space twice as big if I could to include all the history of this county," James said. "That is one of the reasons why we created the website, to house more information as well as teaching and research opportunities about the project and its subject." The exhibit is open from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. starting April 30 and running indefinitely at the Bulloch County Annex on 115 North Main Street.

MARRERO DISCUSSES REDIRECTION

Georgia Southern President discusses outcome of redirection in letter to faculty and staff

BY MATTHEW ENFINGER
AND BRENDAN WARD
The George-Anne staff

A letter from Georgia Southern University's President Kyle Marrero explains the outcome of the university's budget redirection plan, which includes funds toward fixing pay disparities among faculty and staff and details on eliminating vacant faculty positions. The original estimated redirection / reductions for FY20 was \$15,025,564. According to the letter that amount decreased to \$13,102,257. "We began with a budget redirection target of 10% for each unit -- the total redirection ended up ranging from 5.5% [for Academic Affairs] to 10.07% [for] Business & Finance for an average university-wide reduction of 6.79%," Marrero said in the letter. "The total amount identified was approximately \$20.3 million."

From the redirection, the university identified savings and new funding equal to \$26.4 million. GS has allocated \$13.3 million for FY20 strategic priorities. These priorities include:

- Addressing faculty & staff salary equity studies: \$6.5 million
- GS share of 2% merit increase + faculty promotion & tenure: \$1.5 million
- Student success/enrollment growth/retention: \$2.67 million
- Restoring university reserves: \$2.6 million

Fixing pay disparity

Part of the funds from the redirection will go towards fixing disparity in pay for faculty and staff, Marrero said in the letter. According to the letter, approximately \$6.5 million will be spent on salary equity for

faculty and staff, \$500,000 will be spent for faculty promotion and tenure salary increases and another \$4 million, which includes \$3 million from state funding, will go toward salary merit increases to faculty and staff. The university is investing approximately \$2.7 million in salary equity to ensure compensation for the faculty as a whole will be at approximately 90% of peer median. This investment will impact 327 faculty members. The university also plans to invest \$3.8 million to ensure all staff salaries are at least at the entry point minimum of their pay band. There are additional targeted market adjustments planned. The first round of salary adjustments will impact 816 staff members with no one's salary being decreased, Marrero said in the letter. Faculty and staff will be informed of their new salaries

pending approval from the University System of Georgia in May, according to the letter. "We are all in this together and will continue to invest in our students' success, our dedicated faculty and staff and the communities we serve," Marrero said in the letter.

Vacant positions cut

According to the letter, the university identified 196 vacant positions for elimination, which comprised 43 faculty and 90 staff from budget redirection, plus an additional 63 staff positions identified during the Comprehensive Administrative Review process. Out of the 196 identified vacant positions, 103 positions were eliminated as a direct result of redirection according to the university documents which can be viewed at thegeorgeanne.com.

The vacant faculty eliminations include:

- College of Arts and Humanities- 24 vacant positions
 - College of Education- nine vacant positions
 - College of Science and Mathematics- 12 vacant positions
 - College of Behavioral and Social Science- three vacant positions
 - College of Public Health- one vacant position
 - College of Health Professionals- one vacant position
 - Administrative assistants of unspecified departments- 10 vacant positions
- According the letter, all the positions that were eliminated were vacant as of March 15, with some vacant for six to 12 months or longer. For more information, visit the office of the president.

Georgia Southern's 2018-2019 Year in Review

starts here

May 2018

President Hebert announces his resignation from Georgia Southern. The University System of Georgia announces that Shelley Nickel will serve as interim president.



July 2018

Georgia Southern releases statement regarding student's use of racial slur gone viral. The "triggerish" event was covered by national news such as The Washington Post and The View.

Nov 2018

Former gubernatorial candidate and now Governor Brian Kemp held a rally on Nov. 2 in the front parking lot of Anderson's General Store in Statesboro. Kemp's campaign stopped in Statesboro a month earlier for a private campaign fundraising event.



Nov 2018

Georgia Southern defeats in-state rival Georgia State 35-14 at Turner Field.

Dec 2018

The Office of Student Conduct conducted investigations on fraternities Kappa Sigma and Delta Tau Delta after evidence of hazing practices at the two fraternities surfaced. Delta Tau Delta would later lose its national charter.



Dec 2018

Georgia Southern wins second bowl game in program history. The Eagles defeated Eastern Michigan 23-21 at the Raycom Media Camellia Bowl.



Jan 2019

After a five month search, the University System of Georgia named Dr. Kyle Marrero as the finalist for Georgia Southern University's 14th president.



Jan 2019

Kennedy Hall residents were notified on Jan. 9. that they would not be living in their assigned housing this semester due to levels of mold being detected inside.



Jan 2019

Georgia Southern announces changes to spring 2019's commencement ceremony in May. Student led petition calls for graduation plans to be changed back.

Jan 2019

Tempers flared over commencement changes at first spring Student Government Association meeting. Dozens of students spoke about their concerns and frustrations with the announced commencement changes. Documentation shows that GS' Student Government Association was told of the upcoming changes in fall 2018.



Feb 2019

Bloodstained Men & Their Friends, an organization that protests circumcision, demonstrated on the Georgia Southern University campus on Feb. 7.



Feb 2019

Dean Melanie Miller officially fills the position of Dean of Students at Georgia Southern University. Miller brings over 20 years of experience working in higher education.



Feb 2019

Rosemary Kramer becomes first Georgia Southern student-athlete to be selected to appear at the NCAA Rifle Championships.

Feb 2019

Student Government Association senators overwhelmingly voted down a resolution calling for the reversal of the recent changes to Georgia Southern University's commencement ceremonies on Feb. 20. The resolution was passed earlier by the Armstrong campus SGA.

August 2018

Lime bikes and scooters roll on the Georgia Southern’s Statesboro campus.

August 2018

Beloved Dean Jackson announces she will be leaving Georgia Southern University to serve as Albany State University vice-president of student affairs.



September 2018

Georgia Southern wins their first game under the Lunford-era, defeating South Carolina State 37- 6.

September 2018

Georgia Southern takes on the Clemson Tigers in Death Valley Stadium. The Eagles scored one touchdown on the highly ranked team but would eventually lose 38-7.



September 2018

Georgia Southern University student Malik Jones was found dead in his Freedom’s Landing apartment the night of Sept.18. An autopsy later determined that Jones died of natural causes due to a cardiac arrhythmia, or Sudden Cardiac Death.



Nov 2018

Student led walk out on Nov.1 concluded with students issuing a letter with Interim President Shelley Nickel. The letter listed disagreements with the usage of the N-word on Georgia Southern University’s campus and actions that students would like to see taken.



Oct 2018

Two Georgia Southern professors were accused of using the N-word to students. A recording of what is said to be Professor Karen McCurdy went viral on Twitter. A GS student blog accused Professor Rebecca Kennerly of saying the N-word. Both professors did not wish to comment.

Oct 2018

Georgia Southern demolishes rival App State at Paulson Stadium. Fans stormed the field after the Eagles won 34-14.



Oct 2018

Protesters march to swim meet to address University’s response to “triggerish” incident in July.



Oct 2018

Georgia Southern closes for two days due to approaching Hurricane Michael.

Oct 2018

Gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams holds a rally at Carroll Hall.



Feb 2019

Student Government Association convention passes legislation calling for reversal of commencement changes.



Feb 2019

Georgia Southern announces that it will conduct a budget redirect due to a decline in student enrollment.

Feb 2019

Georj Lewis, vice president for student affairs at Georgia Southern University, was been named interim president at Atlanta Metropolitan State College effective July 1.



March 2019

Georgia Southern names Anita Howard as new women’s basketball head coach.



March 2019

Tormenta FC stadium breaks ground and announces new Publix for Statesboro.



March 2019

Man arrested after driving into lake on Georgia Southern campus.



April 2019

Georgia Southern welcomes Kyle Marrero and family on his first day as president.



April 2019

University Villas to relocate students due to structural issues found in select apartments.

April 2019

Juwan Smith named winner of Student Government presidential election.



Dingus Magees

40th Anniversary

Dingus Magees celebrates 40 years in business

BY ANTHONY BELINFANTE
The George-Anne staff

Dingus Magees, commonly referred to as “Dingus” by Georgia Southern University students and alumni, has been a part of the GS community for 40 years, and celebrated the milestone on April 27.

Labeled as “The Heart of Statesboro,” Dingus was first opened on April 24, 1979.

“It’s kind of surreal. It just doesn’t seem like it’s been 40 years,” Dingus owner Stephanie Owens said.

While it was business as usual on the special day, customers were able to take part in giveaways Dingus had planned throughout the day, which included t-shirts, drink koozies and more. Former Dingus employees visited the restaurant to celebrate.

Loyal customers and a celebrity love story

Going to Dingus has become a tradition for GS students, with many generations spending their time at the local restaurant over the years.

GS graduate Caroline Burnette spent many nights there as a student, which was something her parents did as well. Remembering her time at Dingus, Burnette has nothing but positive memories with friends.

“There are too many nights to count all the good times and forgotten-about bad days while at Dingus,” Burnette said. “It’s the place you can always count on to make a memory and see friends.”

While Dingus is known for its live music and friendly atmosphere, it is also the place where country music star Luke Bryan met his wife.

Bryan met his wife Caroline

at Dingus back in 1998 when she was a freshman.

“A love story that has carried on for many many years,” Owens said. “And I hope we had something to do with it.”

40 years and counting

Being open for 40 years, Owens has tried to keep the look and atmosphere of Dingus the same for new and returning customers.

“I don’t like to change things,” Owens said. “I like the look to be the same when they come back in year after year. They get that fuzzy feeling about great times that they had here.”

Owens also credits her staff for the success of Dingus over the years.

“I can’t do it by myself,” Owens said. “It takes everybody together to make it successful. That’s just been the best part to me.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE MAPS
Labeled as “The Heart of Statesboro,” Dingus was first opened on April 24, 1979.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHANIE OWENS
Throughout Dingus Magees’ 40 years, owner Stephanie Owens said the best part is the co-workers she works with.

STUDENTS OPPOSE COMMENCEMENT CHANGES

Education students plan presentation in opposition of commencement changes

BY MCCLAIN BAXLEY
The George-Anne staff

In response to commencement changes, junior students in the College of Education will hold a presentation and deliver a letter to President Kyle Marrero highlighting their concerns with the changes.

The changes were announced in January with graduation being split into both college-specific ceremonies and a university-wide graduation. The College of Education as well as the Waters College of Health Professions and the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health are scheduled to have their commencement in Savannah.

Kurtis Archer, junior

education major and one of the leaders of the presentation, was assigned a final project to work on an education-related issue, and wanted to make it about more than just a grade.

“We want anyone that can come to come,” Archer said. “It’s our final project, but it’s important thing for the university.”

Archer and his group hope that the administration and members of the Student Government Association come to the presentation on May 6 to hear the concerns of the students.

“We were trying to figure out a way to tell the administration to say ‘Look we’re feeling neglected by you because we’ve been here,’” Archer said. “This has been our school and now you’re telling us we have to

graduate over there.”

Earlier this month, Marrero affirmed there would be no changes to the plans announced in January, but that assessment and student reaction would be taken into consideration for future graduations.

“They have worked hard administratively to come up with an ideal from the very big university that could work in consolidation,” Marrero said. “I know we’ll do what we do with everything in higher education and we’re going to assess it.”

The presentation is open to the public and set to take place in the Education Building room 1120 on May 6 at 12:30 p.m.

The letter being sent to Marrero can be viewed on thegeorgeanne.com.

Dear Georgia Southern Administrators and Student Government,

Why Students Want to Graduate Here/ Family Reasons

When you have a parent or other family member that graduated from Georgia Southern, it might become a goal of yours to do the same thing. For many of the students here, they have family members (mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, brothers, and sisters) that studied here and, they graduated from their *Alma Mater*. Everybody knows that on the day of graduation there are multiple families coming from far and wide just to see graduates walk across that GSU's stage and to see Freedom's flight. There is an additional issue that rarely garners any mention: there are some students who have siblings graduating at the same time but on a different campus. Those families will be forced to decide on who's graduation to attend. Since this was originally a school for education, we believe that it is our right to graduate from our *Alma Mater*. When we first came to this campus, we fell in love with not just the beauty of this campus but the air of urgency and determination. It is only right that we fight for our right to graduate on this campus.

Other Benefits

Splitting graduation is going to cause a lot of people not to show up to their own graduation that they have worked so hard for. In a recent survey conducted by the University Registrar Office, 38.8% out of the 74% of graduates that responded do not plan on attending Georgia Southern's university-wide commencement ceremony. Some people will say it's too far and others won't have a way to get there. Not only is this an inconvenience, it is also a danger. Moving graduation to Savannah increases the chance of car accidents. Also, Savannah is a more congested area; thereby increasing the possibility of graduates getting into accidents. Students deserve the right to receive their diploma on the campus that they have called their home for 4 or more years. Having your last moment as a student on a campus that is considered home to you with friends, regardless of the major, can provide graduates with an impactful memory that will last a lifetime. Having graduation at your home campus is a important reason but, economically. When families come to Statesboro they are going to spend money. Moving some students to another campus to graduate takes away money for both local businesses and the city of Statesboro. Statesboro has many local food places that graduation is a good money maker for

http://www.thegeorgeanne.com/news/article_e2670da6-5fb1-51e2-a27f-e771a5312563.html



PHOTO COURTESY OF Georgia Southern

PLAY WITH THE WISE

Former Eagles football player uses faith on and off the field

BY MCCLAIN BAXLEY
The George-Anne staff

It's Saturday in late September. The Statesboro heat hits the turf to where the humidity rising can be seen from the stands.

Lining the sidelines of Paulson Stadium are foam pads and water coolers that are waiting to be tackled and drank. Fans have begun filing into the stands, toting freshly popped popcorn and cold Coca-Cola.

Inside the locker room, the Georgia Southern football players are going through final walkthroughs before facing an Arkansas State team.

Before the Eagles leave to start their march to the tunnel, GS team chaplain Matt Wise puts his hand over the team to pray. Nearly three hours later after Wesley Kennedy III completes the momentum comeback against the Red Wolves, Wise takes a moment with the players to pray again and give thanks.

The walk-off win that happened moments before sent the players into jubilation, but Wise and the coaching staff take the time to calm down and focus before embarking into Saturday night.

Wise helped brew the culture of respecting faith on the football field and keeping a strong willed character off the football field.

The Eagles' 38-35 victory against undefeated Appalachian State in 2007 was the final football game Wise played. The junior defensive end had started the first seven games of the year and was one of the better players on a 7-4 GS team.

Wise's career-ending injury sent him to be a student-coach for the 2008 season before graduating with a degree in exercise science.

"I really had a desire that when I was finished playing, I wanted to be strength coach and a high school football coach," Wise said. "There were a lot of coaches, when I was in high school, that had an impact on me. It's a very formidable, impressionable age for guys."

But after the injury, Wise noticed a void in the GS program that he felt called to fill. As a student-coach in 2008, Wise saw the need for ministry and faith within his teammates.

So Wise began leading a bible study within the football team.

"A total athlete is made up of mind, body, spirit and character," Wise said. "Sometimes you come to college and focus on the physical development of your specific sport through strength and conditioning. You focus on the mental part through academics. The part that usually goes unnoticed is the character, spiritual development. Through the years, even when I was in college, anything spiritual was not forced."

More than 10 years since Wise graduated, the Hazlehurst-bred alumnus still calls Statesboro home, volunteering as the football team's chaplain and serving as the director of Athletes In Action.

AIA is an organization that has been around since 1966 and focuses on spreading the gospel to other countries, using

“It doesn't matter where you go, if you can drop a ball, you can cross any kind of socio-economic barrier.”

Matt Wise
GS Team Chaplain



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT WISE

Matt Wise (white shirt) volunteers as the Georgia Southern football team chaplain as well as serving as the director of Athletes In Action.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT WISE

Wise led a group to Costa Rica over Spring Break with head football coach Chad Lunsford.

sports as a communication tool. Through AIA, Wise has led many international trips to places like Costa Rica to talk about his faith and relate to those in other countries with athletics.

"You've got somebody like Tim Tebow, who classifies himself as a Christian athlete, who leverages their platform for good," Wise said.

As a former athlete himself, Wise is able to empathize with not just football players, but GS student-athletes as a whole.

The emphasis on spreading the gospel is there, but the relationship between Wise and the different athletes extends beyond just religion.

"I never force faith on anyone, but it's a resource and I want to help you grow in your character," Wise said. "Most people don't care about an athlete's character until they fail. You look at Johnny Manziel, Tiger Woods. These athletes are put on pedestals and then what happens when an athlete has a moral failure?"

Wise acts as a mentor for the players in leadership and stresses the importance of walking the walk as a human being, acting as more than just an athlete. Many guys look for ways to relinquish their emotions through drugs or alcohol, but Wise tries to be a role model and show that there are other outlets.

"If we can come in, have a mentorship, start setting some life goals, putting themselves in a better position to succeed, you're going to see them

understand to not make those bad decisions," Wise said.

For Wise, the privilege to work with these athletes stems from a calling to give back what he didn't have growing up. Like several players, Wise comes from a single family.

"I didn't have a father figure growing up. My mom had me when she was 16-years-old. I grew up very poor, working all kinds of jobs," Wise said. "A lot of our guys come from broken homes. Now, I get to have a family and I get the chance to show how you're supposed to love your wife. Here's how you're supposed to support your children. Here's how you have a family dinner together."

The athletes hold small group bible studies, help watch Wise's children and have maintained a companionship with Wise, even after they leave GS.

"I get to have a small part in the rest of their lives," Wise said. "That's probably the most rewarding part. Seeing them live out their lives, see them become fathers has been special."

Having Chad Lunsford take over as head coach, the change in culture has been noted

relentlessly. It's contagious and can be seen on the field from the players and coaching staff.

Wise credits the on-field success to Lunsford's character and leadership.

"I think your faith plays the most important part in who you are," Wise said. "Everybody believes in something. Everybody holds to something. But I think when you have that platform like Coach Lunsford has and uses it to leverage it for good. He doesn't force guys to believe in his faith, but you can tell by the decisions he makes and the way he carries himself, his identity is not wrapped up into his job."

Wise carries himself in the same way — letting faith guide his decisions and not letting his title drive him. With this mindset, the former starting defensive end is able to continue serving in his various character-driven roles.

"Coming out of college, I had two passions: Sports and the Lord," Wise said. "Combining those two together, being able to come in on a volunteer basis and work with athletes has been amazing."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT WISE

Wise married Colleen Deignan, a former GS soccer player, and both of them work for Athletes In Action. The two live in Statesboro with their daughters Hope, Kennedy and Berkley.

FROM STATESBORO TO THE BIG STAGE



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAITLYN COLE

Senior Rosemary Kramer competed during the 2019 MW DI Rifle Championships held at the WVU Coliseum on March 9, 2019 in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Kramer sets eyes on international competition after storied collegiate career

BY RYAN KOSTENSKY

The George-Anne staff

Senior markswoman Rosemary Kramer ended her time at Georgia Southern in soaring fashion, becoming not only the first Eagle to qualify for the NCAA championships, where she would finish third, but also becoming the first All-American in the program's six-year history. But Kramer almost didn't come to GS, and her story as an Eagle almost didn't happen.

Hailing from Culloden, Georgia, Kramer comes from a family where shooting was a way of life. Her mother, Whitman, shot pistols in high school, and her father, Kevin, was a member of the club rifle squad at West Virginia University. The senior talked about life growing up and how the thing she became so good at started as just a fun activity.

"My family always kind of taught us about shooting and made sure we were aware of the safety and discipline of it," Kramer said. "So I did it a lot when I was a kid, from deer hunting, to just go shoot balloons and tin cans just to have fun with the family."

It wasn't until she reached high school that Kramer realized her talent at the sport. She shot the highest score ever recorded at her high school, Upson-Lee, in a tryout for the team. In her junior and senior seasons, GS' most elite markswoman appeared in nationals twice, finishing in the top 10 on both occasions.

As is the case for many collegiate athletes around the country, Kramer's career as an Eagle almost didn't happen—she originally planned to go to Columbus State University.

The president of CSU cancelled the rifle program the day before Kramer was set to sign her letter of intent. The cancellation left her scrambling to find another option, but thanks to what would've been her head coach, the senior was pointed in the direction of GS. The rest, as they say, is history.

Just a brief look at Kramer's awards and honors helps paint the picture of how great her career has been. She is a three-time selection to the First Team All-SoCon Air Rifle honors, being named to the list every year from her sophomore season on.

Not only is Kramer the first All-American and NCAA medal winner in program history, but she also owns each of the top-10 all-time highest air rifle scores and seven of the top-10 highest aggregate scores in school history. Kramer will likely go down as the best student-athlete in women's rifle program history.

When asked about her favorite moment as a member of the rifle team, Kramer talked about the unlikely victory at the 2017 Air Rifle Championship at the Citadel, alluding to just how big it was for her and her teammates.

"That was just huge for everyone," Kramer said. "Everything about it was great, we were not expected to win, we didn't expect to win, but we did. And the whole time the other coaches were like trying to check the scores and make sure it's right because there's no way that we won, but we did and we're really proud of it and we stuck with it and got it again this year."

The team has seen exponential growth since the arrival of Head Coach Sandra Worman in 2017, helping Kramer and the squad reach their potentials through a more mental approach of the sport.

"We had a lot of planning this season," Kramer said. "From the start Coach [Worman] got us some really great resources and was a great resource. She told us about all these different ways and tactics to plan for with mental management, so we were able to do positive visualization, imagery, just all this kind of stuff, meditation to prepare our minds for being in a situation that was stressful."



PHOTO COURTESY OF GS ATHLETICS

Senior Rosemary Kramer was selected to represent Team USA in the World University Games hosted in Naples, Italy.

Preparing for stressful situations is part of why Kramer is where she is today, as she's taken the mental preparation to heart as opposed to the physical aspect of preparation.

The senior explained that while most athletes will practice their shooting five, six days a week, her approach is much different. Instead, Kramer would shoot once, sometimes twice a week, while spending the rest of the time getting her mind right.

While the experienced markswoman leaves GS with countless impressive records, she knows the program is in good hands. She's watched it continue to grow since her arrival to Statesboro just four years ago.

When asked about what it's been like to see the team continue to improve during her time as a member, Kramer described the feeling as "amazing" and "uplifting", while stating that the team is on a good path.

"I know that in the next few years, because of the impact that my team has made, that we are really gonna send [the program] places," Kramer said. "People are going to come from all over the country to shoot here and to be a part of the program."

As if Kramer's

accomplishments as an Eagle weren't enough, the senior biology major has her eyes set on taking her talents to the World stage, already having multiple upcoming international events.

Kramer already has a full summer booked, with plans on traveling to Germany in May for the Munich World Cups, followed by Nationals in Fort Benning, Georgia in June and the World University Games hosted by Italy in July.

The international stage will prove to be challenging, as these trips mark her first time leaving the country. In August she's planning on moving out to Colorado Springs, home of the Olympic Training Center with dreams of gold medals on her

mind. If Kramer does well in the different events she participates in, Georgia Southern could have an Olympic athlete come 2020.

But whether or not she qualifies for the Olympics, Kramer is determined to finish her time as a GS student by graduating with her degree in biology in the fall of 2020.

By coming to Georgia Southern in what was an afterthought, Kramer has etched herself as one of the most impressive student-athletes in the annals of GS alumni past and present, while showing what it truly means to be an Eagle in the process.



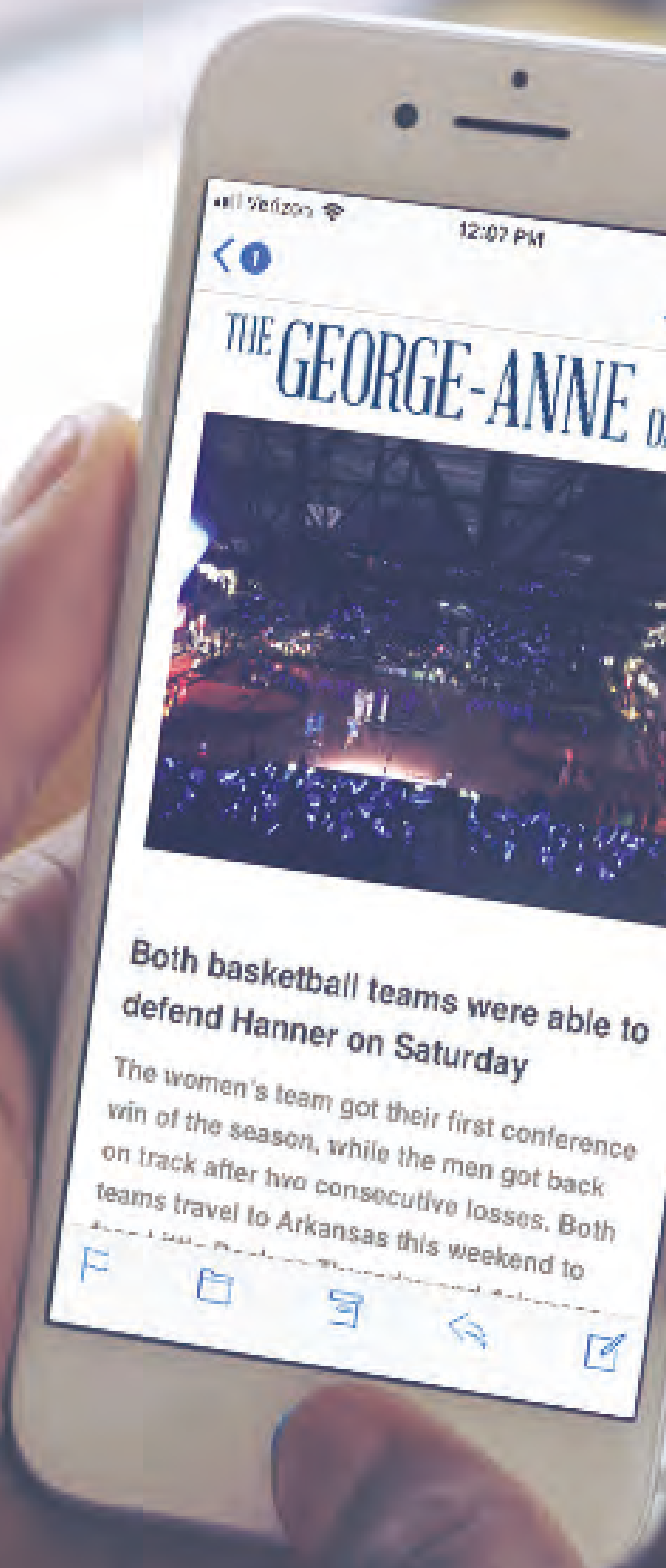
PHOTO COURTESY OF KAITLYN COLE

Senior Rosemary Kramer claims each of the top-10 all-time highest air rifle scores and seven of the top-10 highest aggregate scores in school history at Georgia Southern.

THE **GEORGE-ANNE** DAILY

*YOUR
NEED-TO-KNOW
IN YOUR INBOX.
SUBSCRIBE
TODAY*

GO TO WWW.THEGEORGEANNE.COM TO SUBSCRIBE



Puzzles

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | O | M | M | E | N | T | T | H | R | O | W | R | A | G | I | N | G |
| D | R | I | R | A | O | E | S | L | U | N | C | H | N | N | S | R | K |
| S | A | O | M | T | S | D | I | V | I | D | E | O | P | T | C | A | T |
| S | T | U | N | N | E | D | G | U | N | N | M | P | N | I | N | T | H |
| S | H | I | N | E | S | Y | H | R | D | A | T | E | D | A | L | I | I |
| A | A | O | L | D | E | S | T | S | E | E | M | E | D | A | S | O | R |
| F | I | D | D | L | E | O | S | R | X | E | N | S | N | A | T | T | T |
| E | A | G | L | E | U | T | C | P | R | I | N | T | S | D | L | E | Y |
| T | F | O | V | Y | V | S | E | I | L | A | H | A | R | L | B | L | S |
| Y | H | I | L | L | S | E | U | R | A | N | O | Y | T | Y | I | E | T |
| L | R | E | V | D | R | Q | N | A | M | X | P | I | L | E | S | V | E |
| D | O | C | O | A | E | H | F | U | L | I | I | N | N | E | C | E | T |
| R | P | V | W | R | T | R | L | F | S | E | N | G | D | D | U | N | S |
| S | E | A | E | O | Y | O | O | L | L | T | G | A | L | O | I | E | K |
| K | N | F | L | D | C | L | O | A | K | Y | L | Y | T | A | T | A | I |
| U | N | C | O | M | F | O | R | T | A | B | L | E | P | I | S | F | C |
| N | E | C | A | R | R | O | T | S | F | L | A | S | K | T | O | S | K |
| K | D | F | E | E | M | O | U | T | H | S | G | A | T | E | S | N | S |

- Aging

Among

Anxiety

Buscuits

Blade

Carrots

Cloak

Cloth

Column

Comment

Cream

Dates

Determination

Drive

Eagle

Egypt

Eleven

Entry

Faint

Fiddle

Flask

Flats

Floor

Gates

Glass

Green
- Hills

Hoping

Human

Index

India

Intend

Kicks

Kites

Lined

Loved

Lunch

Medal

Moral

Mouths

Nasty

Ninth

Noses

Older

Oldest

Paint

Penned

Piles

Pilot

Prints

Raging

Ratio
- Reform

Requirements

Sadly

Safety

Scream

Seemed

Shines

Sights

Skunk

Spain

Staying

Still

Store

Stunned

Teddy

Theory

Thirty

Throw

Unaware

Uncomfortable

Usual

Venus

Video

Vowel

Across

- 1

Upper limit
- 4

Enlisted folks (Abbr.)
- 7

Fear or Horn, e.g.
- 11

Dutch export
- 13

Cogent evidence
- 15

March time
- 16

Rural route
- 17

Washer cycle
- 18

Tacks on
- 19

Chinese menu staple
- 22

Intense anger
- 23

Assail
- 24
- 26

Garage contents
- 27

Truant
- 29

Televise
- 32

Starbucks order
- 34

Gone With the Wind actress
- 37

Narrow opening
- 39

Back tooth
- 41

Musical note
- 42

Distant
- 44

Limnologists study them
- 46

Convent dweller
- 47

gures
- 49

Pertinent
- 51

Foray
- 53

Great Plains
- 57

Period in history
- 58

Ocean State
- 61

Slangy negative
- 63

Composer Copland
- 64

Bell sound
- 65

Overhaul
- 66

Fetch
- 67

Old dagger
- 68

Great deal
- 69

Snoop

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | | | | 4 | 5 | 6 | | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | | | 12 | | 13 | | | | 14 | | 15 | | |
| 16 | | | | | 17 | | | | | 18 | | | |
| 19 | | | | 20 | | | | | | 21 | | 22 | |
| 23 | | | | | | | | | 24 | | 25 | | |
| | | | 26 | | | | 27 | 28 | | | | | |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | 32 | | 33 | | | | 34 | | | 35 36 |
| 37 | | | 38 | | 39 | | | | 40 | | 41 | | |
| 42 | | | | 43 | | 44 | | | | 45 | | 46 | |
| | | | 47 | | | 48 | | | | 49 | | 50 | |
| 51 | 52 | | | | | | | 53 | | | | 54 | 55 56 |
| 57 | | | | 58 | | 59 | 60 | | | | | | |
| 61 | | | 62 | | 63 | | | | | | 64 | | |
| 65 | | | | | 66 | | | | | | 67 | | |
| 68 | | | | | | 69 | | | | | 70 | | |

Copyright ©2019 PuzzleJunction.com

- 70

AARP members
- 10

City on the Ruhr
- 40

Raising
- 12

Doc
- 43

Weather forecast
- 13

TV show, e.g.
- 45

Jacuzzis
- 14

Vendettas
- 48

Post-op time
- 20

True-to-life
- 50

Slants
- 21

Rind
- 51

Scorches
- 25

Dill seed
- 52

Bay window
- 27

Gazetteer
- 53

Spring bloom
- 28

Schnozz
- 54

Precipitates
- 29

Botanist Gray
- 55

Word with ear or peace
- 30

In poor health
- 56

Boundaries
- 31

Border river
- 59

Skulls
- 33

Snitched
- 60

Plumbing problem
- 35

Bearded beast
- 62

Wrecker’s job
- 36

Egg warmer
-
- 38

Tipster

1

Famous person, for short

2

Words of wisdom

3

Twinges

4

Complain

5

Charged particles

6

Mediocre

7

Cloak-and-dagger org.

8

Dependency

9

California’s San ___ Bay

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | 4 | | 8 |
| 4 | 2 | | 7 | | | | | |
| | | | 6 | | | 2 | | |
| | | | | 8 | | | 9 | 2 |
| 2 | | | 1 | 4 | | | | |
| 6 | | | | 5 | | 7 | | |
| | | | | | | | 6 | |
| | 4 | | | | | 5 | | 1 |
| | 1 | | | 3 | | | 7 | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 9 | | 8 | | 3 | |
| | | | 5 | | | | | |
| 3 | | 4 | 7 | 6 | | 8 | | |
| | | 5 | | | 2 | 1 | | 6 |
| | | | | | 7 | | | |
| 6 | | | | 1 | | | | 4 |
| | 5 | | | | 6 | 4 | | |
| | 8 | | | | | | | |
| | 7 | | | 5 | | | 2 | 9 |



JAREN STEPHENS/staff

LUNSFORD LOOKS TO NEXT SEASON

Chad Lunsford is ready to continue to prove that Eagle football is back

BY BETHANY-GRACE BOWERS

The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern Eagles spent last football season showing Eagle Nation that they were back to doing what they do best- winning games, and Head Coach Chad Lunsford is already preparing for another successful season.

Many people recognized that the Eagles looked and performed differently as soon as Lunsford stepped into the position as head coach.

What Redemption Felt Like

The team was hearing new phrases and practicing in ways that they never had before. This refreshing system of work was the catalyst for taking a 2-10 season and making it a 10-3 season.

Football in Statesboro is not something that has ever been taken lightly and that 10-3 record restored a sense of hope in the hearts of the school, the community and even the people behind the scenes of the whole operation.

"I think the best way to put it is it was special," Lunsford said. "Our kids believed, our coaching staff believed, I believed and we were all on the same page. So much credit goes to our players, so much credit goes to our staff because they bought into what our plan to win was and they bought into the Georgia Southern man'."

It was all about a mental game for the Eagles. Once

everyone was on the same page, it seemed to go as smooth as ever. Yes, there were still a few bumps in the road during the season, however, it was clear to see that the Eagles were in it to win.

NEVER COMPLACENT

Even though GS got to enjoy the Camellia Bowl win in December, it was immediately back to the grind for the team and the offseason has been extremely important for them.

"I think having a consistent coaching staff, in that same offense, same defense, same special teams, same way of doing the things that we did to get us in that position last year," Lunsford said. "I think that's important, the continuity piece."

There is no harm in consistency. People can't deny that the Eagles performed well last season and there is nothing wrong with keeping some things the same because they worked, but at the same time Lunsford isn't letting things get complacent.

"We also are able to learn from the things last year that we could make better," Lunsford said. "I see a team that is comfortable in that they have the same offense and defense, which I think is a good thing, but I also see a team that wants more."

Even though the jump from the 2017 season to the 2018 season was a huge one, the Eagles didn't play perfect

football every time that they hit the gridiron and while perfection is hard to reach, GS will strive to get there.

"Now when you come off a 10 win season and you improve, it's going to be like that [small] and it may not be as noticeable," Lunsford said. "But, I think you'll see the same blue collar, the discipline, the tough. I think you'll see that same mindset and then guys just wanting it and going 'I'm not satisfied'."

There is so much hunger in the eyes of the Eagles. The improvement of last season was easy for fans to see, but now the players can't focus on being noticed. GS football is back, but now the Eagles are striving for a spotless record for the 2019 season.

Who to Watch for Next Season

With that in mind, there are a few players that will step up into leadership roles now that seniors are graduating and leaving the field for the last time.

On offense, Lunsford mentioned players like rising redshirt-junior Shai Werts, who had an awesome season last year, but will step up as a leader and continue to improve in his role as quarterback.

As an offensive line unit, rising redshirt-senior Jake Cooper and rising sixth year Jake Edwards are name that fans are sure to see more of along with rising redshirt-sophomore Logan Wright

at running back and rising redshirt-senior Colby Ransom at receiver.

"On defense I think you got to look at Kindle Vildor," Lunsford said. "A very good football player, but will have control of that secondary. At linebacker, Rashad Byrd, he's a guy that's played a lot of football for us, takes it to heart, he's going to be that for us."

More players that Lunsford mentioned were rising senior Ty Phillips, and at outside linebacker, rising redshirt-senior Lane Ecton and rising redshirt-senior Jay Bowdry. There is so much potential for leadership among the Eagles and with their focus on the team as a whole, that will be their key to success.

TAKING ON LSU

When looking into the next season for the team, the first game on the schedule is one that fans are already anxious to see take place.

The Eagles are set to travel to Baton Rouge, Louisiana to take on the Louisiana State University Tigers. This match-up might seem crazy to some, but the Eagles will play how they do against any opponent.

It's easy for people to ask about how the Eagles are going to change things up going into a game against an opponent out of the SEC, however, Lunsford shared how the Eagles will really prepare.

"When it comes down to it, if you start making games

different and not preparing the same way, I think you get in trouble," Lunsford said. "I think it's important that our guys understand that you're going to make mistakes in a football game, but you gotta be able to respond to them."

Every player will have to be ready for anything that is thrown their way and the coaching staff at GS has been trying to teach players just that during this off-season.

No team is perfect, everyone has their flaws, everyone has their good days and bad days, but going into next season, the Eagles are playing to have way more good days than bad.

"When you're playing a team like LSU, you better be very minimal in your mistakes," Lunsford said. "It's all about the attention to detail, the effort and the finished piece."

At the end of the day, the Eagles plan on making next season significantly better than their last and all of Eagle nation knows that last season was monumental.

Part of being an Eagle is knowing that the football program does what it takes to win and make GS proud, always. The next season for the Eagles will be nothing short of that and striving to be great athletes and examples on and off the field.

"We'll prepare like we always prepare," Lunsford said. "And we prepare to win football games."

GOING PRO

Five football players to begin professional careers in NFL



KAITLIN SELLS/staff
Running back Wesley Fields was a captain for the Eagles in the 2018 Raycom Media Camellia Bowl.

BY KAITLIN SELLS
The George-Anne staff

Five Georgia Southern football players were given the opportunity to begin their career at the next level in NFL, announced Saturday.

While none of these players were drafted, being a free agent still gives these Eagles a chance to play at the next level if they work hard enough.

Tight end Ellis Richardson signed a free agent contract with the Chicago Bears while the other four have accepted invites to rookie minicamps. Running back Wesley Fields accepted a minicamp invite for San Francisco. Safety Sean Freeman and offensive lineman Curtis Rainey both accepted invites for Atlanta’s minicamp. Finally, safety Joshua Moon accepted his minicamp tryout invitation for Jacksonville.

Richardson logged impressive statistics as a senior, catching 10 passes for two touchdowns during his final season.

Fields was a second-team All-Sun Belt selection his senior year while leading the team in both rushing and receiving yards in the same season. The running back

saw 200 carries for 1,050 yards while notching nine touchdowns. Fields is now the third Eagle to go to a 49ers’ minicamp, following Matt Breida and Jerick McKinnon.

Freeman showed for 39 tackles- with 26 of them being solo tackles, six pass breakups and a forced fumble in the 2018 season for the Eagles. The safety was also only able to compete in 10 out of the 13 games during the 2018 season due to a leg injury putting him out for three games.

Rainey was a first-team All-Sun Belt selection after playing in all 13 games on the season while starting 11 of them. The offensive lineman was on the field for 736 offensive snaps on the season as well as playing all 68 offensive snaps in the Raycom Media Camellia Bowl, where GS saw their second bowl win in program history.

Moon played in 12 games during the 2018 season while logging 41 solo tackles and 30 assisted tackles, totalling out to 71 tackles on the season. Moon was also responsible for two forced fumbles against Arkansas State, one interception against Texas State and one pass breakup against UMass.

WALKER TRANSFERS

Another running back to transfer from Georgia Southern



PHOTO COURTESY OF GSEAGLES.COM



MCCLAIN BAXLEY/staff

Grant Walker (7) announced Friday that he would be entering the transfer portal.

BY MCCLAIN BAXLEY
The George-Anne staff

Redshirt-sophomore running back Grant Walker announced on his Twitter Friday his intentions to enter the transfer portal.
“You all took me in from day

1 and have not only become great teammates, but Brothers/ Best Friends as well,” Walker said in the tweet. “After much thought and prayer with my family I’ve decided that I will be entering my name into the transfer portal with 3 years of eligibility left.”

The former three-star from Ellenwood, Georgia played against South Carolina State and Coastal Carolina, finishing with seven carries for 17 yards in 2018.

Walker announces his transfership a week after fellow running back Andrew

Cunningham announced he was transferring.

“We want to wish Grant a successful career in whatever he chooses and desires,” Head Coach Chad Lunsford said in an email.

After spring practice, Walker was one of nine running backs

on the 2019 roster. Walker had 11 carries for 35 yards in the spring game.

With departures of Walker and Cunningham, redshirt-sophomores Matt LaRoche and Logan Wright are expected to be the Eagles’ top running backs.

Eagles travel to Troy for weekend conference battle



JAREN STEPHENS/staff
Freshman infielder Noah Ledford (28) completed four hits and two runs against the Eagle's previous opponents South Alabama.

BY BETHANY-GRACE BOWERS

The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern Eagles baseball team is set to take on the Troy University Trojans in one of the last few regular season series of the season.

As of now, the GS Eagles have a record of 26-19 overall. For the Sun Belt, the team sits at 12-9 and this weekend is an opportunity to get a few more wins before the end of the season.

Coming off of a loss- but a series win- against the University of South Alabama, the Eagles are ready to take on another Alabama team at J.I. Clements.

Compared to the Eagles, the Trojans now sit at a 22-22 record on their own season overall. Their last series, played against the Little Rock Trojans, came out as a loss since they only won one of the games out of three.

The Trojans had an issue of giving up runs, thanks to their own pitching game and that is where the Eagles will be able to make ground

when facing Troy.

One of the Eagles that has been performing well this season and could take advantage of this Trojan weakness is junior infielder/outfielder, Mason McWhorter.

In the second game of the series against USA, McWhorter had two home runs and a whopping seven RBIs, which helped the Eagles get a win that ended up winning them the series.

Another player to watch in this weekend's match-up is freshman infielder, Blake Evans. With three runs and three RBIs against his latest opponent, Evans has picked up momentum towards the end of the season.

Recently, Evans has been accurate on both sides of the ball and this could easily come in handy going into the series against Troy.

The Eagles will travel to Troy and all three games will air live on ESPN+. The game on Friday will start at 7 p.m., followed by the game on Saturday starting at 4 p.m. and game three on Sunday starting at 2 p.m.

Softball takes on in-state rival in last contest of the season

BY KAITLIN SELLS
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern softball team will play their last regular season series starting Thursday, against rival Georgia State.

These last three games will be vital as GS needs at least two more wins to be eligible to play in the Sun Belt Tournament.

Georgia Southern (20-27, 6-17)

The Eagles started off strong on the season in non-conference play, but seemed to fall short once conference play began. While collecting six conference wins, the Eagles have only claimed one series win.

While seemingly struggling, the Eagles still show for impressive statistics. As a team they're batting an average of .260 while notching 45 total home runs on the season.

Senior infielder Hannah Farrell leads the Eagles with her .369 batting average while logging 21 runs and 57 hits off her 144 at-bats.

Pitching-wise we should expect to see sophomore Rylee Waldrep on the mound. Despite her 5-12 wins-losses record, Waldrep has still seen a decent amount of success this season. She's logged an ERA of 4.00 in her 105 total innings pitched while throwing for 41 strikeouts.

Georgia State (8-43, 5-19)

While GS has seemed to struggle this season, the Panthers have seemed to struggle more. While collecting 43 losses, GSU has only managed to nab eight overall wins. They've also only won one single game on the road- something the Eagles could use to their advantage.

Conference-wise the Panthers have only collected five wins while being on a two game losing

streak.

As a team, the Panthers show for a .222 batting average while tallying 136 runs, 289 hits and 18 home runs on the season. Leading GSU on the bats is redshirt-sophomore infielder Caitlin Ray, who has logged a .307 batting average off her 153 at-bats. Ray has also seen two home runs on the season.

The Eagles should prepare to see Emily Soles on the mound during the weekend series as the redshirt sophomore has pitched for 112 total innings for the Panthers. Soles has thrown 54 strikeouts on the season while logging an ERA of 5.31.

The series is set to take place in Statesboro, starting Thursday at 7 p.m. The series will continue play with game two on Friday at 5 p.m. and will conclude with game three on Saturday at 1 p.m.



SINDI PATANI/staff
The Georgia Southern softball team needs to gain at least two more wins in this last series against Georgia State to advance to the Sun Belt tournament.

JOIN US!

Interested in writing, photography, design, videography, marketing or sales?

Submit an application with The George-Anne Media Group today! No experience needed.

Apply online at thegeorgeanne.com

THE **GEORGE-ANNE** DAILY

REACH 4,000+ GEORGIA SOUTHERN READERS

EVERY WEEKDAY

What could you do with that kind of reach?

- Build brand awareness.
- Promote an event.
- Promote a special offer.

Get in touch.

912-478-7459 or
ads1@georgiasouthern.edu